# FY05 Army Family Action Plan Conference

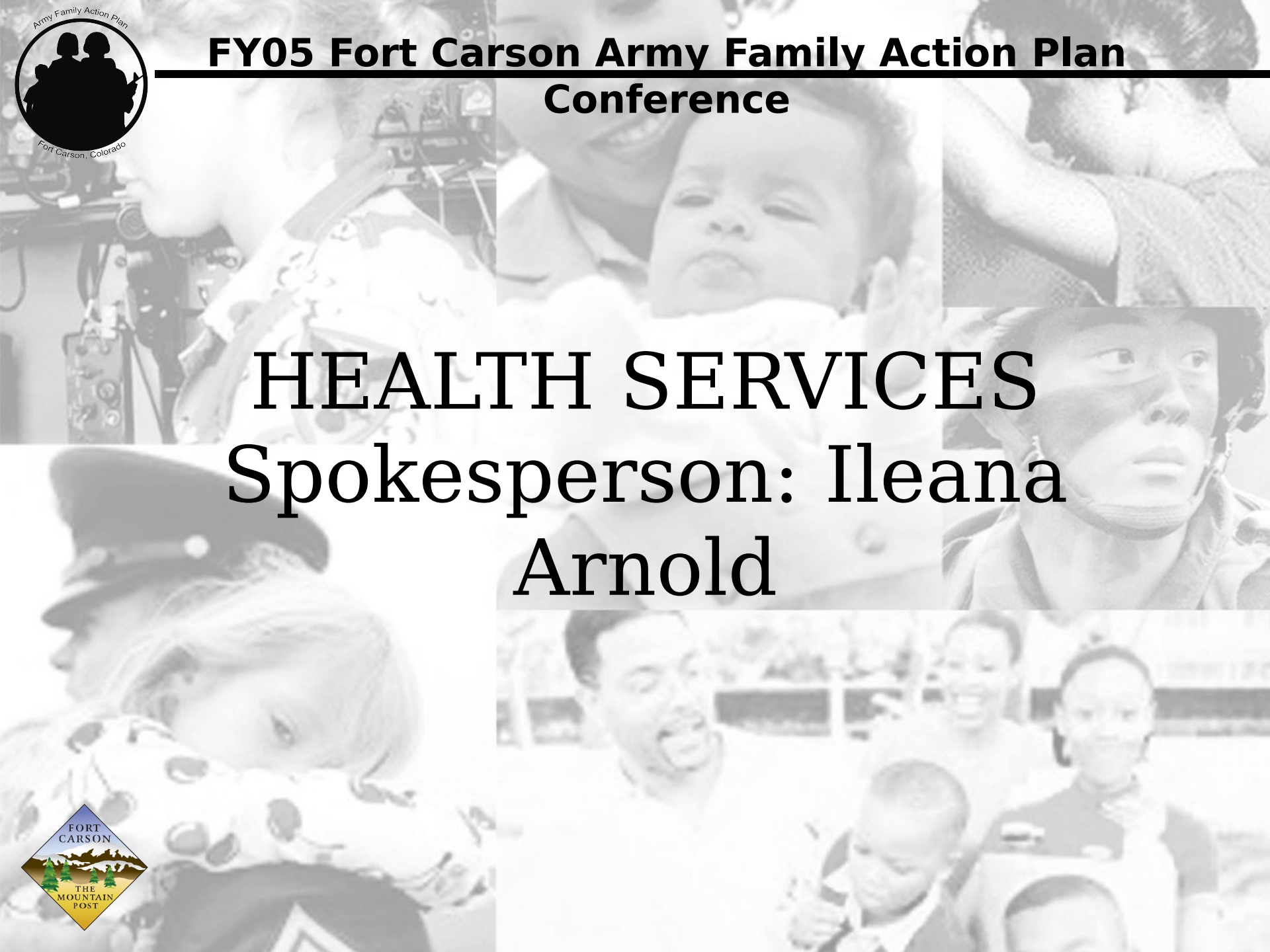
**4-5 November 2004**

**Sheraton Hotel**

**Colorado Springs, CO**

# Top Three Services

1. Hospital
2. AAFES
3. ACS



# FY05 Fort Carson Army Family Action Plan Conference

# HEALTH SERVICES
# Spokesperson: Ileana Arnold

# Free Non-Prescription Medications for Military Families

SCOPE: *Several military installations do not provide free non-prescription medications. To obtain cost free medications, patients and doctors go through many inconveniences such as unnecessary appointments, ER visits, and missing school and work.*

RECOMMENDATION:

*Provide free non-prescription medications at a Military Treatment Facility.*

# Tricare/Medicare Benefits for Disabled Family Members

SCOPE: *Military families with disabled dependents must pay for Medicare Part B when used in conjunction with Tricare. Military families with healthy dependents receive all medical care at no cost. This policy is discriminatory and creates financial hardship on military families with disabled members.*

RECOMMENDATION:

*Allow military beneficiaries the option to decline Medicare Part B without the loss of Tricare benefits.*

# FAMILY SUPPORT/ VOLUNTEERS/EMPLOYMENT

Spokesperson: Paul Rupe

# Funding for Family Readiness Groups

SCOPE: *FRGs are DA directed commanders' programs, designed to enhance the readiness of soldiers and their families. FRGs are currently an unfunded requirement. The lack of funds for FRGs create undue financial stress for FRG volunteers, limiting their ability to provide adequate family support. (The amount of time spent on fundraisers takes away from focusing on family readiness.)*

RECOMMENDATION:

*1.Establish official FRG funding for unfinanced requirements.*

# Location Updates of Injured Soldiers

SCOPE: *Official next-of-kin are not getting continual updates as to the soldier's location after initial notification of combat zone injuries. Due to insufficient updates, the Rear Detachment is inundated with calls for information. If next-of-kin were to receive these updates, they would not feel the need to involve outside officials (i.e. congress, JAG, IG, or media).*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

*1.Amend DA regulation for Operation Ready training to include continuous updating of the location of the injured soldier and make the training mandatory for all Rear Detachment command and staff.*

*2.Develop an SOP that coincides with Rear Detachment regulations, casualty regulations, and Rear Detachment Commander's book.*

*3.Establish a mandatory Liaison Notification Officer (LNO) for each brigade level unit to be placed at medical facilities.*

# DCA & CHILD/YOUTH/EDUCATION

## Spokesperson: Noel Mitchell

# Youth Center Programs

SCOPE: *Currently, the youth center does not provide a variety of programs that appeal to the youth population, which causes a lack of participation. This lack of participation adversely affects funding for the youth center so they cannot provide new programs. Statistics show teens who are unsupervised between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 are more prone to be involved in risky behavior. Providing programs that appeal to today's youth will increase participation, funding, and offer positive after school activities.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

*1.Create a parent/teen/pre-teen council to advise the youth center on particular activities.*

*2. Increase advertising, on and off post, for programs provided at the youth center.*

*3. Encourage additional ways to acquire teen input.*

# Child Development Center Facilities

SCOPE: *The current facility, including the playground, for before and after school programs is insufficient for the growing Ft. Carson community. The present facility sustained water damage due to flooding. Many of the rooms can only used at 50% of their capacity due to safety and fire codes. In addition, current electrical systems are outdated and need immediate upgrading. Some parents are reluctant to use the facility due to these aforementioned conditions. Modernizing and expanding the CDC will provide quality facilities, increase participation, and will meet the requirements for the current and future Ft. Carson family.*

*RECOMMENDATIONS:*

1. *Renovate and modernize existing buildings.*
2. *Accelerate the construction of all CDC buildings in the installation master plan.*
3. *Erect modular buildings and retain until permanent facilities are built.*

# Transportation System for Off-Post Youth

SCOPE: *Youth living in areas surrounding post have limited transportation to and from the youth center. Public transportation only provides limited access to post and does not stop at the youth center. Many parents have grave concerns regarding the safety of their children riding public transportation. Parents want a safe, effective, and convenient transportation service. This would increase participation in youth service activities, thereby providing positive opportunities for our youth.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *Create a teens' panel consisting of on and off-post teens to more effectively identify stops and scheduling that coincide with programs offered at the youth center.*
2. *Re-route and expand the current shuttle bus routes to include off-post locations.*

# BENEFITS/ENTITLEMEN

## TS Spokesperson: Steve Elisha

# Barracks Work Order Timelines

SCOPE: *The current contractor response time to work orders is not adequate to maintain proper health and safety concerns for soldiers residing in the barracks. The current system of accountability has a deadline for initial response, but does not provide a deadline for the work order to be completed.*

RECOMMENDATION:

*1. Develop and implement tiered work order deadlines that mirror the established work order priority levels.*

*2. Formulate and assess a monetary penalty for work orders not completed in accordance with newly established deadline standards.*

# Lighting in Critical Areas

SCOPE: *Inadequate lighting throughout the installation attribute to the lack of personal safety and security for personnel. In addition, building addresses and street identification is difficult to see at night. As a result, emergency and delivery services and personnel not familiar with the post have trouble navigating.*

RECOMMENDATION:

*1. Increase lighting throughout installation.*

*2. Provide increased visibility for building, street, and housing addresses.*

# Basic Allowance for Housing Rates

SCOPE: *Current calculations concerning BAH do not accurately reflect the cost of living in all circumstances. As a result, families are forced to pay more than the expected 15% out-of-pocket costs. This causes financial hardships and forces soldiers to seek outside aid.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *Eliminate the current out-of-pocket cost by 2010.*
2. *Institute CONUS COLA for all military personnel receiving BAH.*
3. *Conduct the BAH survey and adjust rates semi-annually.*

.

# 24 Hour Shoppette

SCOPE: *Ft. Carson does not currently have a 24 hour shopping facility. Some of the Ft. Carson community have limited access to 24 services. Soldiers often have to report to duty at all hours and have very little time to go off post to purchase necessities. A 24 hour shoppette would increase the quality of life for the Ft. Carson community.*

RECOMMENDATION:

*Initiate a test market evaluation for a 24 hour shoppette.*

# FORCE SUPPORT LEADERSHIP/SPONSORSHIP

Spokesperson: David McVay

# Command Group and Joint Military Postal Agency (JMPA) Involvement in Postal Operations

Conference

SCOPE: *Currently the JMPA and Command Group only take action in postal operations when a specific problem is presented. Postal contractors are not held to standards, such as DOD 4525-6-M and AR 600-8-3. This lack of standardization between civilians contractors and their military counterparts adversely affects delivery times to soldiers, who sometimes have to pay high prices to ensure delivery of important documents.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *Encourage the JMPA and Command Group to enforce contracts involving civilian handling of military mail per postal regulations: DOD 4525-6-M and AR 600-8-3.*
2. *Evaluate recommendations made by Postal Inspectors and ensure implementation.*
3. *Ensure that all overseas mail is delivered by air transport to expedite mail delivery.*

# Dual Military (All Services & Branches) Consideration for Permanent Change of Station

SCOPE: *Today dual military families are forced to PCS to separate locations. For example, one Air Force service member may receive PCS orders while the Army service member remains on station, leading to a possible continuous cycle of separation. Lack of communication between branches and or services frequently cause staggered scheduling and unnecessary separation of dual military families, resulting in higher divorce and attrition rates.*

RECOMMENDATION:

*Create a joint directorate that oversees all dual military assignment applications.*